

INTRODUCTION

This report* provides summary data for high school seniors taking the Scholastic Assessment Test known as SAT-I. Students take the test to provide colleges with information about how well they are prepared for a college-level curriculum. The SAT-I is the revised version of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). A description of this test can be located in appendix B of this report.

Students taking the SAT do not include all the students in a particular high school. Neither the state nor school districts are involved in funding or selecting the students who take this test. Instead, the SAT is administered by the College Board, a private company, and students register to take the test directly with the College Board. High schools provide registration forms and information to students about the test.

This report reflects reported scores for seniors who anticipated graduating in 2003. If a student takes the SAT as a junior, his or her scores are not reported until the following school year—the student's senior year. If students take the SAT more than once, **the most recent score is used in the summary score report.**

Data are summarized for seniors in the nation, in South Carolina, in the eighty-five school districts, and in the high schools in the state. The national and state summaries include seniors enrolled in both public and private high schools. School district and high school data summaries in this report include only public schools in the state.

The reporting of data summarized for students with twenty or more credits refers to students who have reported that their high school curriculum would include twenty or more academic credits. Academic courses, as recognized by the College Board, include credits in six academic areas: English, mathematics, natural science, foreign/classical languages, social science/history, and arts and music.

The scoring scale was recentered in spring 1995. The data in this summary report reflect the new, recentered scale. Data for the prior years for all students also are reported using the recentered scale.

Data are also available on the Department of Education's home page on the Internet <http://www.myschools.com>.

**The College Board provided national and state data in this report on August 7, 2003. District and school data in this report were provided by and Educational Testing Service on August 20, 2003. Any additions, or revisions to, or deletions from their data files after these dates are not reflected in this report.*

RECENTERING THE SAT REPORTING SCALE

The traditional SAT score reporting scale is a conversion of the raw score to a scale score that was anchored to a 1941 norm, or reference group, and established over fifty years ago. At the time the scale was established, a score of 500 was average. With a range of 200 to 800, scores of 400 to 600 were in the middle of the SAT score range. However, the 1941 population of ten thousand students who took the test consisted of a relatively small group and was an elite segment of the academic system. The original scale was representative of the students taking the test at that time but is not representative of the nation now, particularly the million-plus population applying for college today.

Beginning with 1996 SAT scores, recentering reset the midpoint of the score range at 500, the middle of the 200-to-800 scale based on the 1993 population, the new reference group. As a result, the recentered verbal and math scores can be examined on a comparable scale. On the original scale, a 424 verbal score was comparable to a 478 math score. Recentering eliminated confusion about differences in math and verbal scores. The meaning of “average” performance is now easier to understand. The use of 500 as average is again meaningful. Student scores are interpreted in percentiles that are comparisons of scores with the scores of others taking the test.

For additional information, see *The New SAT and Balancing the Scales*, a brochure published by the College Board’s Southern Regional Office. The College Board’s Internet home page contains additional information <www.collegeboard.com>.

THE NEW SAT OF 2005

According to the College Board, the new SAT will be administered for the first time in March 2005 for the class of 2006. Upcoming changes include:

- ❖ The former SAT verbal section will be renamed critical reading and will replace analogies with short reading passages;
- ❖ A new section, the SAT writing section, will be added and will contain multiple-choice grammar questions as well as a written essay;
- ❖ The SAT math section will be expanded to cover three years of high school math - Geometry, Algebra I and Algebra II; and
- ❖ The SAT math section will no longer include quantitative comparisons.

Additional information regarding the new SAT can be found on the College Board’s website at <http://www.collegeboard.com/about/newsat/newsat.html>.

COMPARISONS OF SAT SCORES FOR GROUPS OF STUDENTS

There are some comparisons of SAT scores for groups of students that can be made fairly:

- comparisons across time (over years),
- comparisons between verbal and mathematical abilities, and
- comparison with the national average.

In the same way that a statement one makes can be taken out of context and used to imply something that goes beyond what was intended, a problem often occurs with test scores. It is unfair to compare scores across states, school districts, or schools without taking context into account.

A publication of the College Board, *Guidelines on the Uses of College Board Test Scores and Related Data*, discusses this topic. Factors beyond instruction affecting group performance results on the SAT are

- the participation rates (the percentage of students tested during the school year),
- the number of academic courses taken,
- the type of academic courses taken in high school,
- students' family backgrounds,
- the educational level of students' parents,
- the grade retention rates,
- the attrition or dropout rates,
- the graduation rates,
- the pupil/teacher ratios,
- the teachers' credentials,
- the expenditures per student, and
- the minority enrollment.

The participation rate for students in South Carolina is high, while number of academic courses tends to be low.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The SAT is administered in October, November, December, January, March, April, May, and June of each year. October of the senior year is the most popular time for students to take the test. Students may take the test more than once; **the most recent score is used in the computation of the average SAT score**. Test registration forms are available at the local high schools.

YEAR OF MOST RECENT SAT SCORES FOR CURRENT GRADUATING SENIORS						
Year of Most Recent SAT Administration	SOUTH CAROLINA			NATION		
	Number Tested	Percent Tested*	Composite Score	Number Tested	Percent Tested*	Composite Score
Senior year	17,345	76	983	978,007	70	1007
Junior year	5,251	23	1012	416,364	30	1070
Sophomore year	214	1	948	10,671	1	1057
Freshman year	21	0	918	1,282	0	1021
Total	22,831	100	989	1,406,324	100	1026

*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF PARENTS

Students indicate the educational level of their parents when completing the SAT registration application.

	South Carolina	Nation
No High School Diploma	2%	5%
High School Diploma	38%	33%
Associate's Degree	12%	9%
Bachelor's Degree	28%	28%
Graduate Degree	20%	26%

STATE RESULTS

The SAT is primarily used in twenty-three states and the District of Columbia as a college admissions test. The percentage of seniors who elect to take the SAT ranges from a low of 54 percent in California and Hawaii to a high of 85 percent in New Jersey. The SAT states are listed below in participation rate order.

AVERAGE SAT SCORES BY STATE 2003				
	Participation Rate	Verbal	Math	Composite Score
New Jersey	85%	501	515	1016
Connecticut	84%	512	514	1026
Massachusetts	82%	516	522	1038
New York	82%	496	510	1006
District of Columbia	77%	484	474	958
New Hampshire	75%	522	521	1043
Rhode Island	74%	502	504	1006
Delaware	73%	501	501	1002
Pennsylvania	73%	500	502	1002
Virginia	71%	514	510	1024
Maine	70%	503	501	1004
Vermont	70%	515	512	1027
Maryland	68%	509	515	1024
North Carolina	68%	495	506	1001
Georgia	66%	493	491	984
Indiana	63%	500	504	1004
Florida	61%	498	498	996
South Carolina	59%	493	496	989
Oregon	57%	526	527	1053
Texas	57%	493	500	993
Washington	56%	530	532	1062
Alaska	55%	518	518	1036
California	54%	499	519	1018
Hawaii	54%	486	516	1002

Source: College Board, 2003. Appendix C provides data for all states.

PERFORMANCE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE NATION

The average SAT verbal score in South Carolina increased by 5 points between 2002 and 2003, from 488 to 493, while the national average verbal score increased by 3 points, from 504 to 507. The average SAT math score in South Carolina increased by 3 points, from 493 to 496. Math scores also increased by 3 points nationally, from 516 to 519.

	SOUTH CAROLINA	NATION
Verbal		
Change in verbal from last year	+5	+3
Change in verbal from 1999 to 2003	+14	+2
Mathematics		
Change in math from last year	+3	+3
Change in math from 1999 to 2003	+21	+8
Composite score gain from 1999 to 2003	+35	+10

When the 2003 performance is compared with the 1999 performance, the average verbal score has increased 14 points in South Carolina, as compared to an increase of 2 points for the nation. The average math score increased by 21 points in South Carolina, as compared to an increase of 8 points for the nation.

SOUTH CAROLINA AND NATIONAL AVERAGE SAT SCORES 1999–2003						
Year	SOUTH CAROLINA			NATION		
	Verbal	Math	Composite Score	Verbal	Math	Composite Score
1999	479	475	954	505	511	1016
2000	484	482	966	505	514	1019
2001	486	488	974	506	514	1020
2002	488	493	981	504	516	1020
2003	493	496	989	507	519	1026
1999–2003	+14	+21	+35	+2	+8	+10

This year, SAT averages were released for students taking the SAT who expected to take the twenty or more academic credits recommended by the College Board. In 2002–03, the composite score for those students in South Carolina was 1045, and the composite score for the nation was 1097.

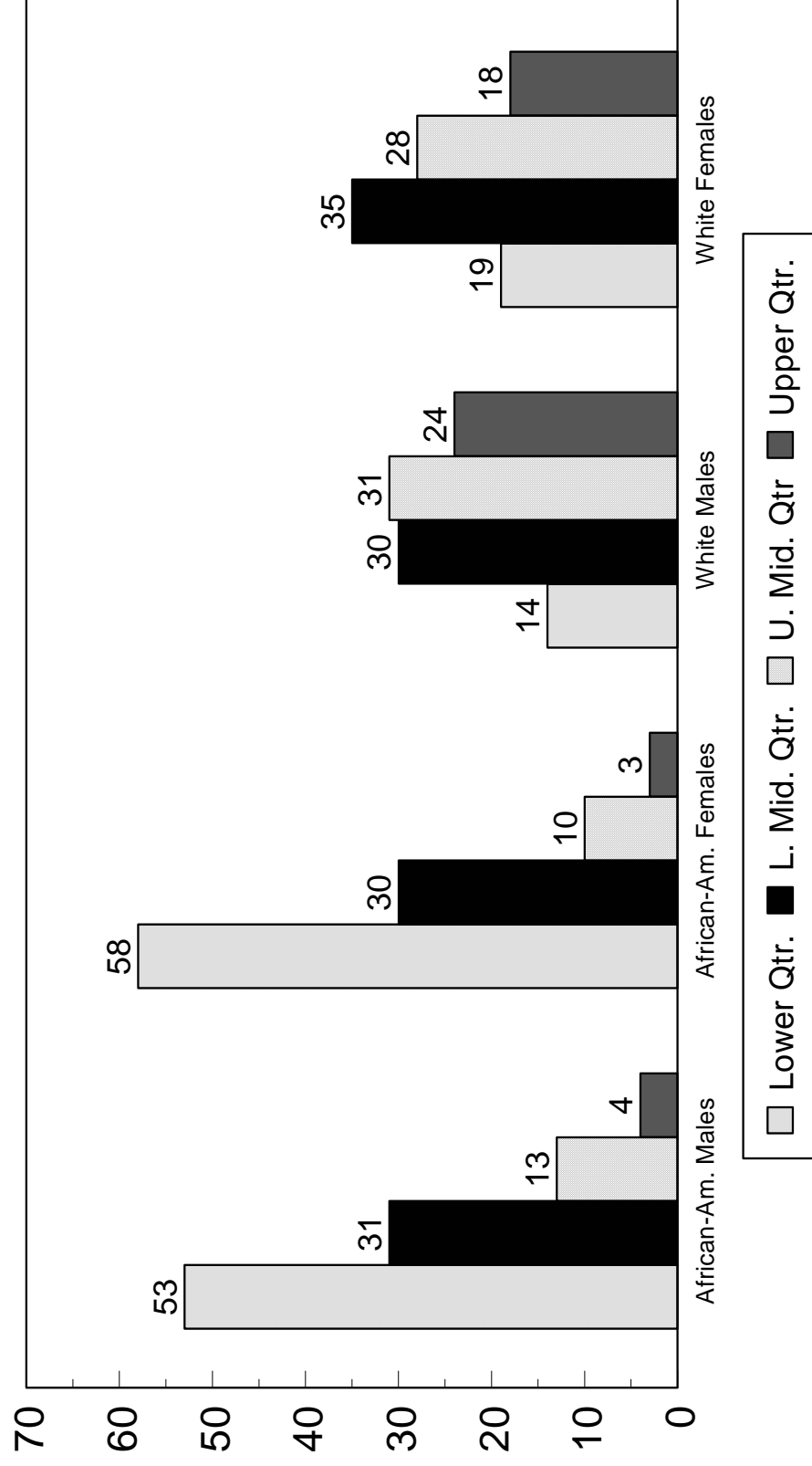
TWENTY OR MORE ACADEMIC CREDITS				
	SOUTH CAROLINA		NATION	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
	7,634	49	456,178	50
Composite Score	1045		1097	
Verbal	521		544	
Math	524		553	

A comparison of scores by national quarter shows the gap in performance by ethnicity. The table below and the chart on the following page illustrate the differences.

PERFORMANCE IN EACH NATIONAL QUARTER IN 2003*				
(SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS)				
	Lower Quarter	Lower Middle	Upper Middle	Upper Quarter
All Students	27	32	25	16
African-American Males	53	31	13	4
African-American Females	58	30	10	3
White Males	14	30	31	24
White Females	19	35	28	18
National (<i>All Students</i>)	25	25	25	25

*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Percentage of South Carolina Public School Students Scoring in Each National Quarter for 2003



GENDER

The average SAT verbal score for males in South Carolina increased by 6 points between 2002 and 2003, while the average SAT math score for males increased by 4 points, from 509 to 513.

Between 2002 and 2003, the average SAT verbal score for females in South Carolina increased by 4 points, from 485 to 489. The average SAT math score for females increased by 2 points, from 480 to 482.

	SOUTH CAROLINA		NATION	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
VERBAL	+6	+4	+5	+1
Change from last year	(491 to 497)	(485 to 489)	(507 to 512)	(502 to 503)
MATHEMATICS	+4	+2	+3	+3
Change from last year	(509 to 513)	(480 to 482)	(534 to 537)	(500 to 503)

From 1999 to 2003 the average SAT composite score for males increased 32 points; the composite score for females increased 34 points.

AVERAGE SAT SCORES AND POINT CHANGE								
GENDER	TEST	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999–03 STATE CHANGE	2003 NATION
Males	Verbal	484	487	492	491	497	+13	512
	Math	494	500	506	509	513	+19	537
Females	Verbal	476	482	482	485	489	+13	503
	Math	461	469	475	480	482	+21	503

ETHNICITY

Students who take the SAT complete a demographic questionnaire, but some students do not respond to all the questions. The following table indicates the percentage of students who provided their ethnicity.

RESPONSE RATES		
	Percent	Number of Students
Indicated	83	18,852
Not Indicated	17	3,979

A larger percentage of South Carolina seniors elected to take the SAT compared to the national percentage in 2003.

SAT TEST TAKERS				
	SOUTH CAROLINA		NATION	
	#	%	#	%
Graduating seniors tested	22,831	59	1,406,324	48
African Americans	4,953	N/A	125,657	N/A
Whites	12,778	N/A	670,260	N/A
Other categories of ethnicity*	1,121	N/A	255,060	N/A

*Note: Not all students respond to questions about themselves, so subtotals for ethnicity do not sum to the total tested.

ETHNICITY

The average verbal score for African-American students increased by 4 points between 2002 and 2003, from 418 to 422. The average SAT math score also increased by 4 points, from 421 to 425.

While SAT scores for South Carolina's African-American students increased this year, their scores still remain lower than white students. The average verbal score was 422 for African-American students and 518 for white students. The average mathematics score was 425 for African-American students and 521 for white students.

The average verbal SAT score for white students increased by 3 points to 518 between 2002 and 2003. The average SAT math score increased by 2 points, from 519 to 521.

	SOUTH CAROLINA		NATION	
	African Americans	Whites	African Americans	Whites
VERBAL	+4	+3	+1	+2
Change from last year	(418 to 422)	(515 to 518)	(430 to 431)	(527 to 529)
MATHEMATICS	+4	+2	-1	+1
Change from last year	(421 to 425)	(519 to 521)	(427 to 426)	(533 to 534)

From 1999 to 2003 African-American students' average composite scores increased by 25 points, from 822 to 847. The average SAT composite score for white students increased by 26, to 1,039 points.

Average SAT Scores and Point Change South Carolina and Nation by Ethnic Group								
Ethnic Group	Test	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999–2003 State Change	2003 Nation
African-American	Verbal	415	419	420	418	422	+7	431
	Math	407	414	421	421	425	+18	426
White	Verbal	509	512	514	515	518	+9	529
	Math	504	510	515	519	521	+17	534

ETHNICITY

SOUTH CAROLINA

Ethnic Group	2003				2002			
	#	%	Verbal	Math	#	%	Verbal	Math
American Indian	113	1	461	459	109	1	484	479
Asian American	422	2	500	546	451	2	498	551
African-American	4,953	26	422	425	4,965	26	418	421
Mexican American	92	0	461	477	88	0	463	471
Puerto Rican	48	0	490	483	65	0	465	460
Other Hispanic	132	1	491	483	136	1	487	495
White	12,778	68	518	521	13,265	68	515	519
Other	314	2	506	498	340	2	501	491
No response	3,979	*	502	503	2,944	*	485	489

NATION

Ethnic Group	2003				2002			
	#	%	Verbal	Math	#	%	Verbal	Math
American Indian	7,452	1	480	482	7,506	1	479	483
Asian American	100,970	10	508	575	103,242	10	501	569
African-American	125,657	12	431	426	122,684	11	430	427
Mexican American	50,375	5	448	457	48,255	4	446	457
Puerto Rican	14,569	1	456	453	14,273	1	455	451
Other Hispanic	42,548	4	457	464	41,627	4	458	464
White	670,260	64	529	534	698,659	65	527	533
Other	39,146	4	501	513	38,967	4	502	514
No response	355,347	*	510	525	252,618	*	501	516

* Not included in calculating percentages.

DATA BY CLASS RANK

Seniors who self-report high class ranks in high school have higher scores than seniors who self-report lower class ranks. Students in South Carolina who reported themselves in the top 10 percent of their class had an SAT average verbal score of 569 and an average SAT math score of 580.

SCORES BY CLASS RANK				
	South Carolina		Nation	
	Verbal	Math	Verbal	Math
Top tenth	569	580	585	607
Second tenth	506	514	522	539
Second fifth	472	478	486	494
Third fifth	437	434	449	449

DATA BY GRADE POINT AVERAGE*

High School Grade Point Average	South Carolina				Nation			
	Test Takers		Mean Scores		Test Takers		Mean Scores	
	#	%	Verbal	Math	#	%	Verbal	Math
A+ (97–100)	1,363	7	586	596	72,519	7	607	625
A (93–96)	3,637	19	548	556	193,698	18	566	583
A- (90–92)	2,866	15	516	522	187,551	17	538	552
B (80–89)	9,203	48	467	468	502,544	47	480	485
C (70–79)	1,950	10	412	409	118,792	11	425	424
D, E, or F (<70)	44	0	411	407	4,448	0	416	430
No response	3,768	**			326,772	**		

*Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

**Not included in calculating percentages.

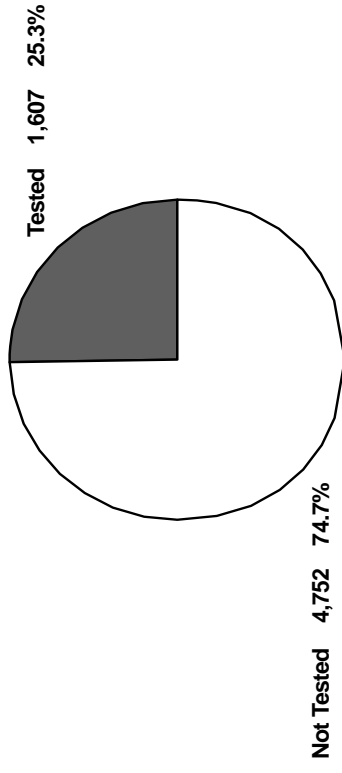


SOUTH CAROLINA

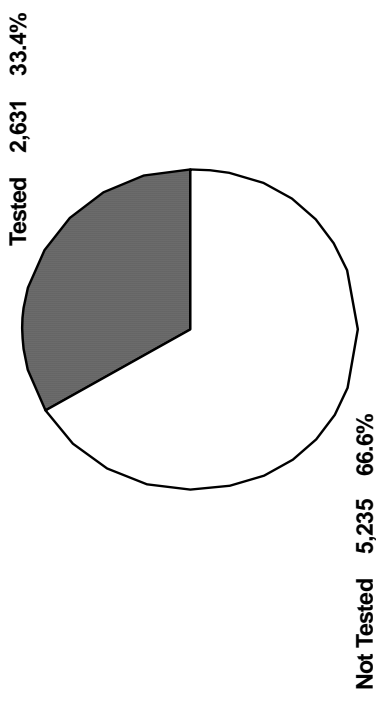
**PUBLIC SCHOOL
PERFORMANCE**

2003 Percentage of South Carolina Public School Students Tested

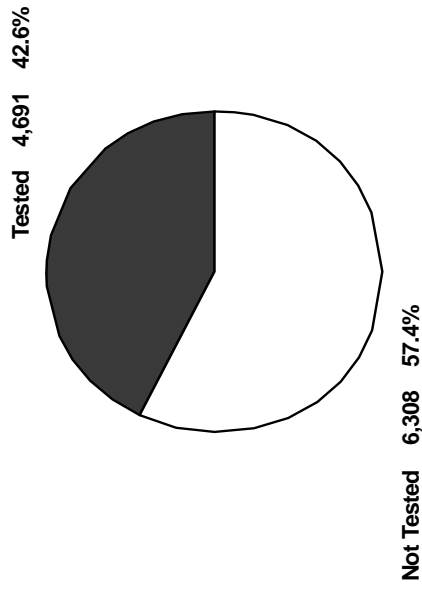
African-American Males



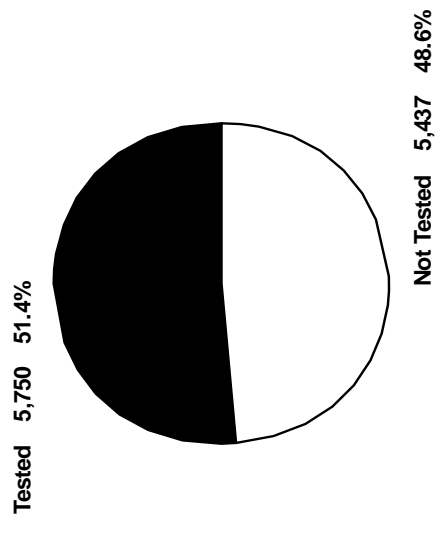
African-American Females



White Males



White Females



PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Data are not available for individual private schools. The state data by type of high school are provided here:

Type of High School	Students Tested	Composite Scores
Public	18,594	994
Private	2,340	1034
Religiously Affiliated	1,177	1047
Independent	1,163	1020
Not Indicated	1,897	<i>Data not compiled</i>

LIFE SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY*

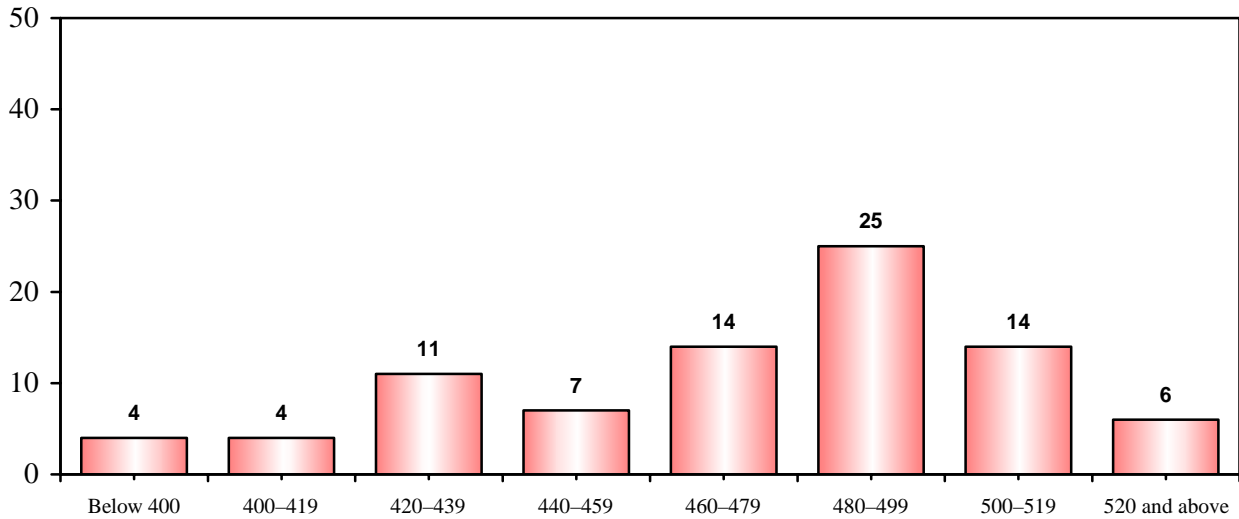
The LIFE Scholarship requirement is a score of at least 1,100 for freshmen entering college in 2003.

PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS MEETING SAT REQUIREMENT FOR COLLEGE TUITION ASSISTANCE (AT FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY)					
	ALL STUDENTS	FEMALES	MALES	AFRICAN AMERICANS	WHITES
Percent	29.8	26.2	34.5	7.7	37.5
Number	5,536	2,694	2,842	327	3,916
Tested	18,551	10,301	8,250	4,238	10,441

*See appendix F for additional details.

AVERAGE SAT SCORES DISTRICTS

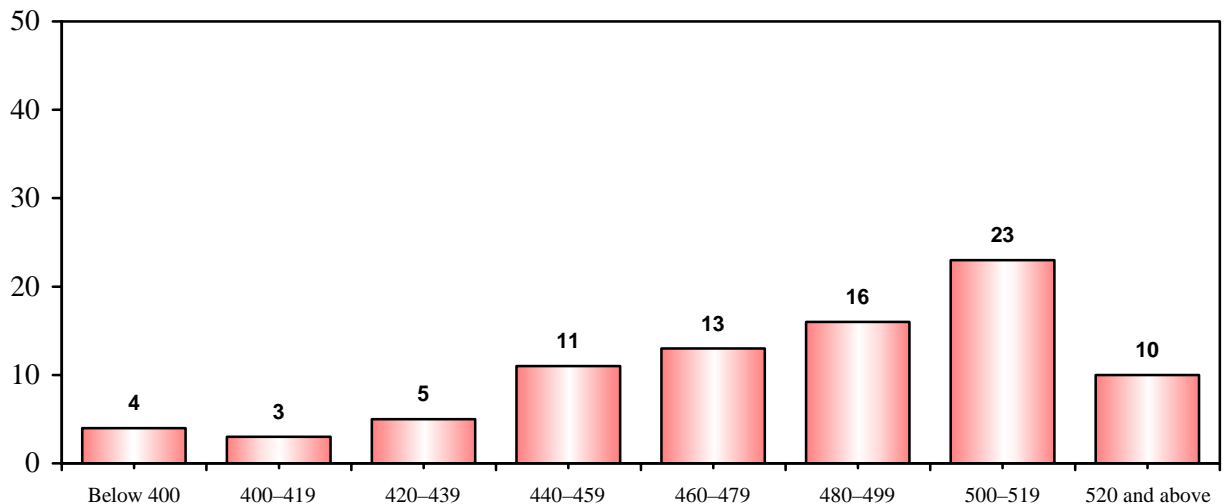
**Number of South Carolina School Districts in
SAT Score Intervals
Verbal - 2003**



National Average Score: 507

State Average Score: 493

**Number of South Carolina School Districts in
SAT Score Intervals
Math - 2003**



National Average Score: 519

State Average Score: 496

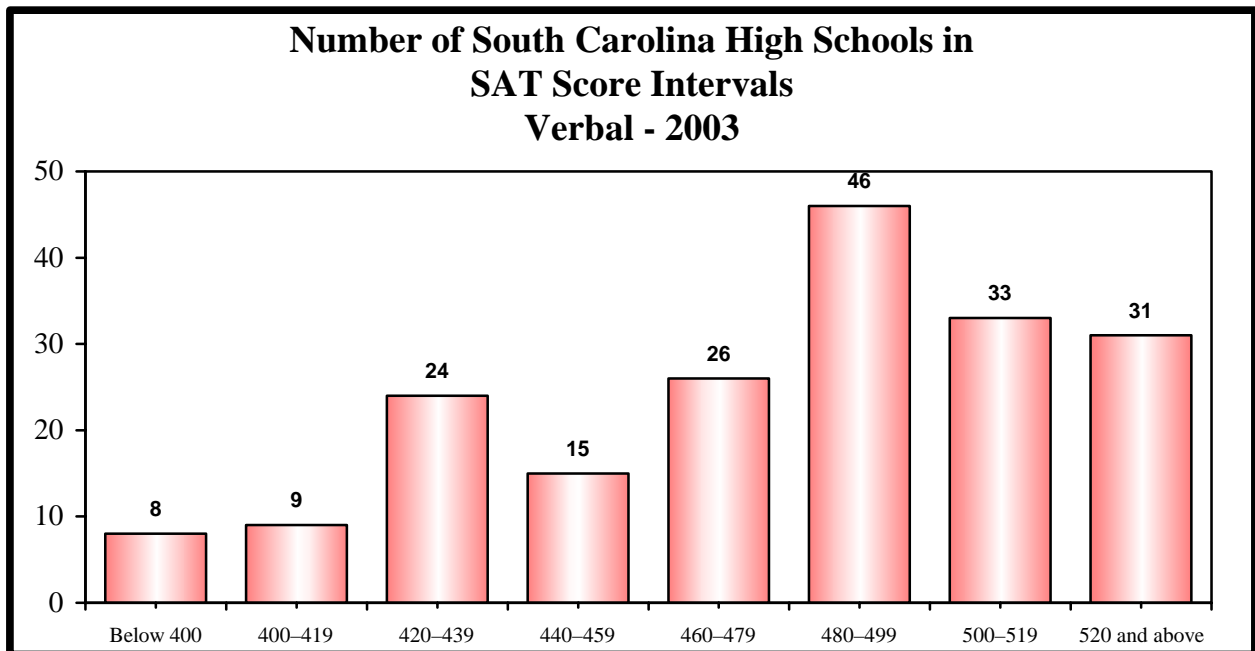
DISTRICTS ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

The SAT is reported for high school seniors for each of the eighty-five school districts in South Carolina. Not all students in a district take the SAT; the percentage of students tested, by district, ranged from a low of 17 percent in Orangeburg 3 to a high of 76 percent in the school districts of Florence 2 and York 4.

In 2003, the average SAT composite score of ten school districts exceeded the national average SAT composite score of 1026.

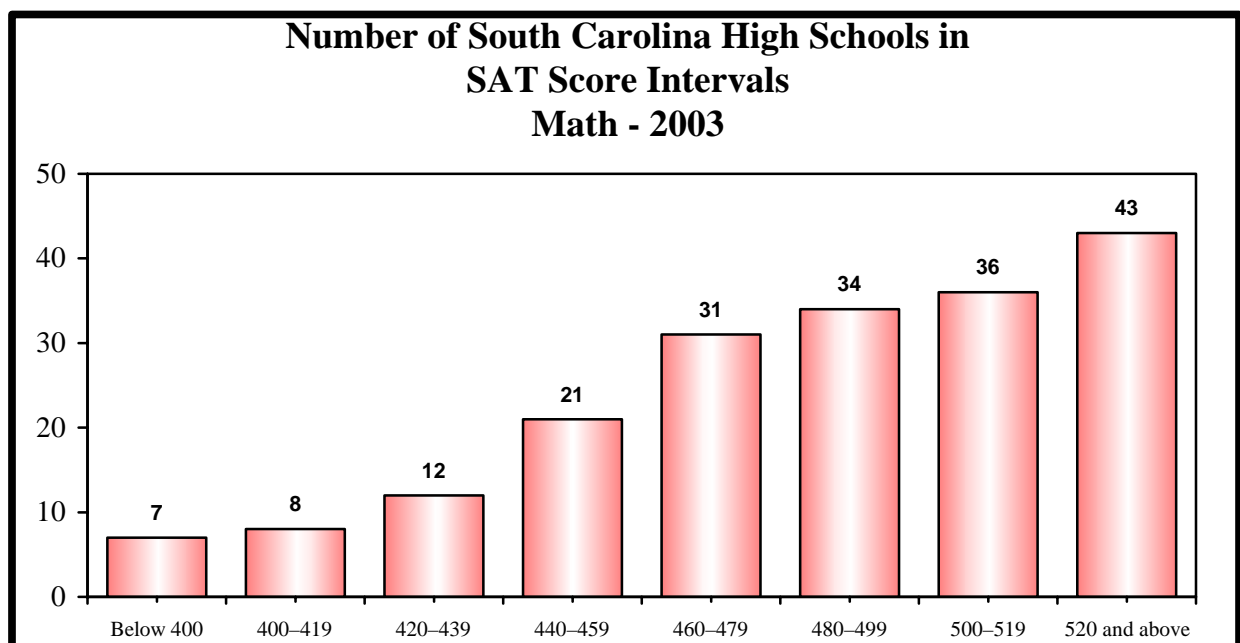
	2003			2002		
District	Percent Tested	Number Tested	Composite Score	Percent Tested	Number Tested	Composite Score
Barnwell 45	35	54	1041	40	61	994
Dillon 3	30	24	1028	41	32	997
Dorchester 2	44	438	1046	49	499	1009
Horry	41	635	1031	51	695	1009
Kershaw	37	203	1058	35	200	1056
Lexington 1	59	621	1060	62	581	1055
Lexington 5	74	734	1072	76	757	1064
Oconee	39	200	1041	49	264	1032
Spartanburg 6	49	262	1047	56	306	1040
York 4	76	249	1059	76	214	1066

AVERAGE SAT SCORES HIGH SCHOOLS



National Average Score: 507

State Average Score: 493



National Average Score: 519

State Average Score: 496

HIGH SCHOOLS ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

The SAT is reported for high school seniors by high school. In South Carolina, the percentage of seniors who elected to take the SAT ranges from a low of 15 percent at C. E. Murray High School in the Williamsburg School District to a high of 100 percent at Academic Magnet High School in Charleston.

In 2003, forty-four public high schools, the Governor's School for Science and Math, and the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities had average SAT composite scores that exceeded the 2003 national average SAT composite score of 1026.

District	School	2003			2002		
		Percent Tested	Number Tested	Comp. Score	Percent Tested	Number Tested	Comp. Score
Aiken	South Aiken High	76	225	1057	75	206	1065
Anderson 1	Palmetto High	26	42	1045	33	46	1021
Anderson 5	T L Hanna High	67	213	1039	67	182	1030
Barnwell 45	Barnwell High	35	54	1041	40	61	994
Berkeley	Goose Creek High	19	66	1050	26	81	1002
Charleston	Wando High	73	388	1036	73	349	1024
Charleston	Charleston School of the Arts	89	75	1082	87	69	1050
Charleston	Academic Magnet High	99	92	1208	96	93	1195
Chester	Lewisville High	21	11	1040	51	29	909
Dillon 3	Latta High	30	24	1028	41	32	997
Dorchester 2	Summerville High	47	277	1055	52	309	1007
Dorchester 2	Fort Dorchester High	39	161	1028	44	190	1012
Georgetown	Waccamaw High	75	77	1068	77	78	1061
Greenville	Eastside High	82	203	1047	86	181	1059
Greenville	Wade Hampton High	63	169	1034	59	142	1037
Greenville	J L Mann High	76	165	1059	76	190	1018
Greenville	Mauldin High	69	254	1037	72	252	1018
Greenville	Riverside High	88	236	1130	88	249	1104
Horry	Aynor High	19	23	1084	33	38	1076
Horry	North Myrtle Beach High	39	67	1047	58	75	991
Horry	Socastee High	64	217	1040	72	232	984
Horry	Carolina Forest High	42	91	1065	51	91	1071
Kershaw	North Central High	21	20	1028	19	22	985
Kershaw	Camden High	37	84	1071	39	86	1049
Kershaw	Lugoff-Elgin High	43	99	1052	39	92	1080
Lexington 1	Gilbert High	46	76	1046	46	71	1056
Lexington 1	Lexington High	80	363	1062	81	354	1058
Lexington 1	Pelion High	22	26	1095	29	30	1047
Lexington 1	White Knoll High	48	156	1053	52	126	1045
Lexington 5	Chapin High	77	153	1056	76	148	1076
Lexington 5	Irmo High	82	307	1073	83	338	1047
Lexington 5	Dutch Fork High	66	271	1082	68	269	1076
Oconee	Seneca Senior High	49	82	1058	54	101	1030
Oconee	Walhalla Senior High	41	65	1067	52	87	1043
Pickens	D W Daniel High	76	151	1074	79	174	1084
Richland 1	Dreher High	75	157	1073	88	217	1059
Richland 1	A C Flora High	71	173	1064	71	141	981
Richland 2	Spring Valley High	70	298	1053	67	258	1024
Spartanburg 1	Landrum High	32	24	1107	35	25	1007
Spartanburg 2	Boiling Springs High	43	154	1040	49	167	1001
Spartanburg 6	Dorman High	49	262	1047	56	306	1040
Union	Lockhart Schools	28	5	1056	29	7	956
York 3	Northwestern High	72	326	1029	75	331	1020
York 4	Fort Mill High	76	249	1059	76	214	1066
	Gov. School for Science & Math		36	1361		40	1369
	Gov. School for Arts & Humanities		101	1111		96	1106